

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Emergency Assistance Program

Fiscal Year 2016, Second Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development

February 29, 2016



Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 2, SFY 2016

During Quarter 2, 2,226 families applied for EA, 22 percent less than the previous quarter (2,853 families) and 21 percent fewer families compared to FY15 Quarter 2. 1,040 families were placed in EA shelters or hotels/motels during Quarter 2, 18 percent less than the previous quarter (1,274 families) and 17 percent fewer families than were placed in FY15 Quarter 2. Also in FY16 Quarter 2, 408 EA eligible families were diverted from shelter with HomeBASE Household Assistance, a flexible benefit to help them retain their current housing or support them in seeking alternative housing. This represented 28 percent of families entering the system. Twenty-two percent chose a HomeBASE diversion the previous quarter, while 20 percent took a HomeBASE diversion in FY15 Quarter 2.

The Boston regional eligibility office continued to serve as the entry point for the greatest number of families placed in shelters or hotels/motels, 391 families in Quarter 2, 38 percent of all placements, followed by the Springfield and Chelsea offices, respectively, accounting for 16 percent and 10 percent of placements.

Fifty-eight percent of families entering EA shelters and hotels/motels were eligible due to a health and safety risk, while eviction was the reason for homelessness for 13 percent of families and domestic violence for another 11 percent. Of those families experiencing a health and safety risk, 56 percent qualified for EA because they were in irregular housing situations. Twenty-seven percent reported living in situations not meant for human habitation, and 9 percent were homeless due to conditions in their housing units. Another eight percent of families entering an EA shelter or hotel/motel during Quarter 2 were experiencing health and safety problems related to their hosts' behavior (violent conduct, substance abuse, or mental illness).

During Quarter 2, there was an average daily caseload of 1,127 families in hotels/motels compared to 1,252 in the previous quarter (a 10 percent decrease) and 1,777 in FY15 Quarter 2 (a 37 percent decrease).

During Quarter 2, 1,228 families exited the EA system. 683 (56 percent) of these families left an EA shelter or hotel/motel with HomeBASE Household Assistance.

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EA Applications and Entries

All Applications	SFY 2016 Quarter 2	Previous Quarter	SFY 2016			SFY 2016
			Oct	Nov	Dec	
Families Applying to EA	2,226	2,853	829	748	704	4,941
Families Entering Shelter and Hotel/Motels or Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	1,624	1,475	534	468	446	3,072
Families Entering Shelter & Hotels	1,040	1,274	398	343	299	2,314
% Entering Shelter or Hotels/Motels	72%	78%	75%	73%	67%	75%
Families Diverted with HomeBASE HA	408	350	136	125	147	758
% Entering HomeBASE	28%	22%	25%	27%	33%	25%

Note: Families applying for EA are an unduplicated count. Since families may apply multiple times, the sum of monthly data do not equal the quarterly total.

Sources: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data and Tracker.

EA Health & Safety Assessments

	SFY 2016 Quarter 2	Previous Quarter	Oct	Nov	Dec	SFY 2016 YTD
H&S Assessments Conducted by DCF	594	752	229	206	159	1,346
Families Determined at Risk	489	605	181	174	134	1,094
% Referrals at Risk	82%	80%	79%	84%	84%	81%
Shelter Diversions	105	147	48	32	25	252
% Referrals Diverted	18%	20%	21%	16%	16%	19%

Source: DCF Monthly Homeless H&S Assessment Reports.

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EA Shelter Entries by Region

	SFY 2016 Quarter 2			SFY 2016			SFY 2016 YTD	
Regional Office	# Families	% of Total	Previous Quarter	Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% of Total
All Offices	1,040	100%	1,274	398	343	299	2,314	100%
Boston	391	38%	483	149	123	119	874	38%
Brockton	66	6%	107	25	20	21	173	7%
Fall River	16	2%	32	8	3	5	48	2%
Fitchburg	8	1%	16	2	4	2	24	1%
Framingham	18	2%	24	4	8	6	42	2%
Greenfield	12	1%	17	5	4	3	29	1%
Holyoke	5	<1%	57	3	2	0	62	3%
Hyannis	15	1%	26	6	3	6	41	2%
Lawrence	55	5%	69	20	25	10	124	5%
Lowell	42	4%	54	16	15	11	96	4%
Malden	5	<1%	23	2	2	1	28	1%
New Bedford	24	2%	28	7	9	8	52	2%
North Shore/Salem	50	5%	52	20	22	8	102	4%
Pittsfield/North Adams	4	<1%	1	1	0	3	5	<1%
Plymouth	3	<1%	6	1	0	2	9	<1%
Revere/Chelsea	109	10%	97	43	36	30	206	9%
Southbridge	4	<1%	4	3	0	1	8	<1%
Springfield	164	16%	113	67	49	48	277	12%
Taunton	6	1%	8	1	3	2	14	1%
Worcester	43	4%	57	15	15	13	100	4%

Source: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

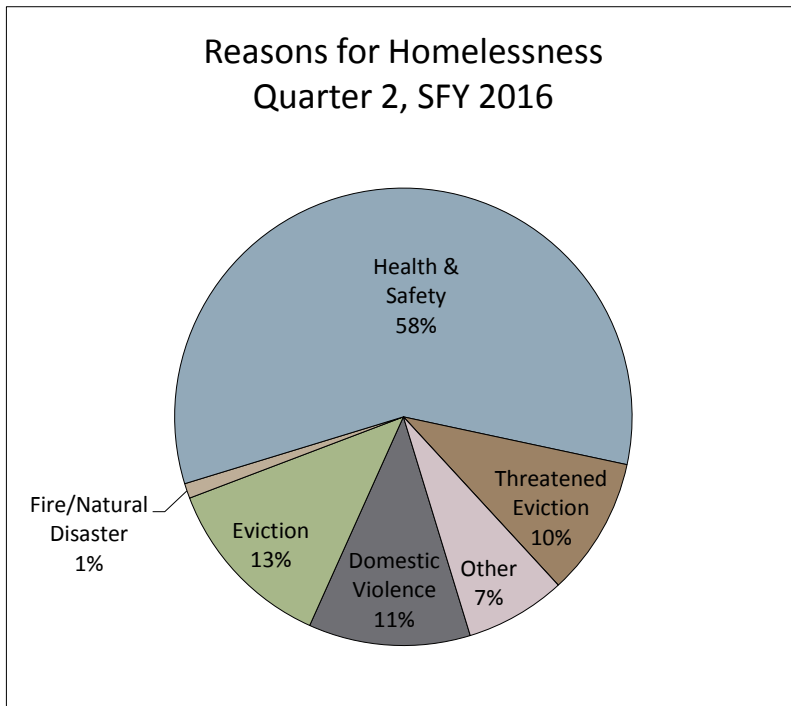
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**Reason for Homelessness,
Families Entering Shelter/Motels**

Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2016 Quarter2		Previous Quarter	SFY 2016			SFY 2016 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% of Total
Total	1,040	100%	1,274	398	343	299	2,314	100%
Domestic Violence	119	11%	162	40	42	37	281	12%
Eviction	130	13%	179	53	40	37	309	13%
Fire/Natural Disaster	11	1%	30	1	6	4	41	2%
Health & Safety	604	58%	670	232	194	178	1274	55%
Threatened Eviction	102	10%	120	39	42	21	222	10%
HomeBASE Waiver	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Other	74	7%	113	33	19	22	187	8%

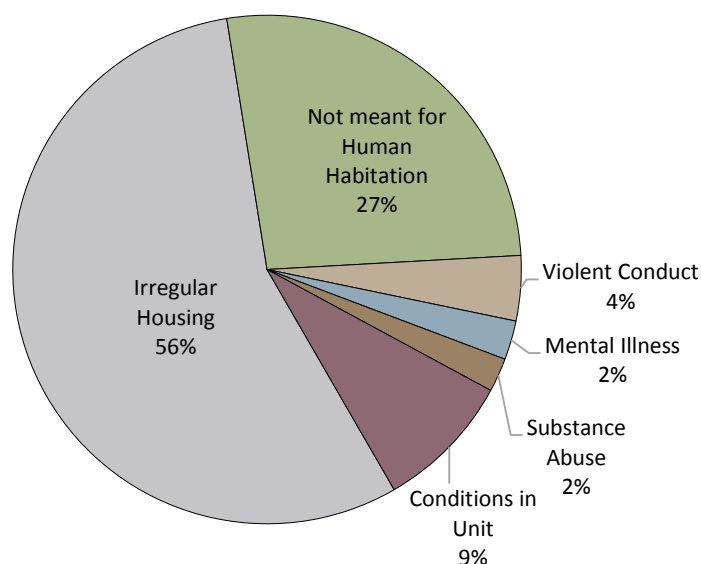
Note: Data includes families placed in an EA shelters or hotels/motels who declined their placements.

Source: DHCD Placement Unit data.



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Health & Safety Reasons
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Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits

Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits	Quarter 2	Previous Quarter	SFY 2016			SFY 2016 YTD	
			Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% Exits
Total	1,228	1,167	410	343	475	2,395	100%
Abandoned	128	185	48	39	41	313	13%
Criminal Activity	2	8	1	0	1	10	0%
Feasible Alternative Housing with HB	683	520	216	187	280	1,203	50%
Feasible Alternative Housing without HB	201	204	75	64	62	405	17%
Ineligible	20	30	6	7	7	50	2%
No Show/Rejected Placement	21	18	2	13	6	39	2%
Non-compliance	13	13	6	2	5	26	1%
Temporary Shelter Interruption	76	104	21	19	36	180	8%
Other/Unknown	84	85	35	12	37	169	7%

Notes:

Families receiving a Temporary Shelter Interruption may return to the system within 30 days.

Families terminated from shelter for abandoning their placements or non-compliance may return to the system pending an appeal.

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EA Shelter and Hotel/Motel Caseload

Daily Utilization by Shelter Type	Quarter 2, SFY 2016	
	# of Families	% of Total Daily Caseload
Shelter	3,259	77%
Hotels/Motels	964	23%
All Families	4,223	100%
Caseload Difference from Previous Quarter	-281	
% Change from Previous Quarter	-6.2%	

Note: Data indicate the number of families in EA shelter or hotels/motels at the end of the quarter.

**Length of Stay and Cost of Families Exiting EA
During Quarter 2**

	Min.	Max.	Average
Days in EA Shelter or Hotels/Motels	1	1,708	341
Cost Per Episode	\$117	\$199,836	\$39,897

Notes:

Cost per episode assumes an average daily rate of \$117 (the weighted average of the shelter and hotel/motel rates).

The average daily rate includes additional costs incurred through housing stabilization and services coordination provided to families in EA.

HomeBASE Caseload

Type of Assistance	Number of Families
Household Assistance	4,079

Note: Data indicate families active in the HomeBASE program during December 2015.